



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

CENTRE FOR NEURO SKILLS
2658 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD CA 93306

Respondent Name

INSURANCE CO OF THE STATE OF PA

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-10-4787-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "In 2008, and for the last fifteen (15) years, the patient has continued to receive these essential and necessary services and, as they are charged at the fair and reasonable rate agreed upon between the parties, these rates should be paid under rule 134.401(a)(2)."

Amount in Dispute: \$14,610.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Requestor charged a fee of \$487 per day for its services and treatment of the Claimant. The services allegedly being provided and billed under CPT Code 97799 do not have an established Division maximum allowable reimbursement. Because there is not a maximum allowable reimbursement for the services, the amount to be reimbursed is the fair and reasonable amount for the services provided. However, and in order to determine the fair and reasonable amount, the Requestor is required to submit proper documentation." "Respondent conducted a survey of the metropolitan area in which the services were provided, including a specific bid from a competing provider, and as a result determined that the reimbursement rate of \$200 per day, was a fair and reasonable amount for the medical services." "Requestor argued that they had a contract with Respondent which stated that a fee of \$487 would be paid for each day the claimant remained at Requestor's facility. However, Requestor has not provided any contract signed by Respondent. Additionally, please see the attached Affidavit of Cindy Gowing which confirms that Respondent has consistently maintained that it would continue to be responsible for the care and treatment of the Claimant as provided by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and not due to any alleged and unseen contract." "Further, please see attached internal communication from Requestor admitting that there was no negotiated contract with Respondent regarding the fees for treatment of the Claimant." "Additionally, Requestor failed to preauthorize the medical services."

Response Submitted by: Downs Stanford, PC, 2001 Bryan Street, Suite 4000, Dallas, TX 75201

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
September 1, 2009 through September 15, 2009	Assisted Living Services – CPT Code 97799	\$7,305.00	\$0.00
September 16, 2009 through September 30, 2009	Assisted Living Services – CPT Code 97799	\$7,305.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$14,610.00	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 provides for fair and reasonable reimbursement of health care in the absence of an applicable fee guideline.
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.
4. This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on July 20, 2010.
5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of Benefits dated October 16, 2009

- 4Y8-Workers compensation state fee schedule adjustment.

Findings

1. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective March 1, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 626, which requires that, in the absence of an applicable fee guideline or a negotiated contract, reimbursement for health care not provided through a workers' compensation health care network shall be made in accordance with subsection §134.1(f) which states that "Fair and reasonable reimbursement shall: (1) be consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011; (2) ensure that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement; and (3) be based on nationally recognized published studies, published Division medical dispute decisions, and/or values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments, if available."
2. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(E), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include "a copy of all applicable medical records specific to the dates of service in dispute." Review of the submitted. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(E).
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(G), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
 - The requestor's position statement asserts that "In 2008, and for the last fifteen (15) years, the patient has continued to receive these essential and necessary services and, as they are charged at the fair and reasonable rate agreed upon between the parties, these rates should be paid under rule 134.401(a)(2)."

- The requestor does not discuss or explain how \$487.00 per day is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- In support of the requested reimbursement, the requestor submitted a redacted explanation of benefits, from a sample insurance carrier. However, the requestor did not discuss or explain how the sample EOB supports the requestor's position that additional payment is due. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not establish that the sample EOB are for services that are substantially similar to the services in dispute. The carriers' reimbursement methodologies are not described on the EOB. Nor did the requestor explain or discuss the sample carriers' methodologies or how the payment amount was determined for the sample EOB. The requestor did not discuss whether such payment was typical for such services or for the services in dispute.
- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.
- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	5/23/2012 Date
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YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.